

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4. (Canceled)

5. (Original) A card reader comprising:

a card entrance;

a readout head for reading information recorded on a card inserted at the card entrance;

an output circuit for outputting information read by the readout head;

a card conveyance mechanism for discharging the card;

an ultrasonic wave sensor comprising a transmitter to transmit ultrasonic waves outside the card entrance and a receiver to receive reflected waves of ultrasonic waves from a body when the body is present at the card entrance;

a memory for storing as a reference duration a necessary duration from transmission of ultrasonic waves to reception in the case where a card is present outside the card entrance; and

an abnormality determination unit to make a comparison between said necessary duration at the time of reception of ultrasonic waves transmitted from the transmitter when the card conveyance mechanism discharges the card and the reference duration stored in the memory, and to output presence or absence of an abnormality on the basis of results of the comparison.

Claims 6-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A transaction processing apparatus comprising:

a card entrance;

a readout head for reading information recorded on a card inserted at the card entrance;

an output circuit for outputting information read by the readout head;

a transaction processing unit for performing a transaction processing on the basis of information from the output circuit;

a card conveyance mechanism for discharging the card when the transaction processing unit completes a transaction; and

an ultrasonic wave sensor for detecting whether the card is present outside the card entrance when the card is discharged by the card conveyance mechanism, said ultrasonic wave sensor comprises a transmitter for transmitting an ultrasonic signal, a receiver for receiving a reflection signal of said ultrasonic signal, a reference duration memory and an ultrasonic wave sensor signal processing circuit which uses said reflection signal and information in said memory to determine if said card is outside said card entrance.